

## EPHEDRACEAE – EPHEDRA or MORMON TEA FAMILY

**Plant:** shrubs and vines

**Stem:** bark fissured (cracked); twigs green, equisetum-like

**Root:**

**Leaves:** simple, opposite or whorled, scale-like, quickly drop

**Flowers:** mostly dioecous (rarely monoecious); small flowers formed into staminate and pistillate cones, cones small and mostly form whorls at nodes (see botanical literature for further description)

**Fruit:** small cones

**Other:** Gymnosperm

**Genera:** 1 genus. 60+ species

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Nevada Joint-Fir (Mormon Tea); *Ephedra nevadensis* S. Watson

# Nevada Joint-Fir (Mormon Tea)

*Ephedra nevadensis* S. Watson

Ephedraceae (Ephedra or Mormon Tea Family)

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation

Area, Clarke County, Nevada

**Notes:** shrub (evergreen); flowers are yellow to brown  
composed in staminate and pistillate cones whorled at  
nodes; leaves scale-like at nodes and drop early; stem  
evergreen (equisetum-like) with joints, gnarly roots  
usually exposed; spring

[V Max Brown, 2014]

